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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: 2309/0K045

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Hisashi TAKAI et al.

Serial No.: 10/001,886

Art Unit: 1731

Confirmation No.: 3404

Filed: November 16, 2001

Examiner: HALPERN, Mark

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING NON-WOVEN FABRIC

RECEIVED
JUN 23 2003
GROUP 1706

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT

June 18, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sirs:

Responsive to the Notice Dated May 22, 2003, reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement are respectfully requested.

Set forth in the Notice is the statement that:

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"The reply filed on 4/14/2003 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): Applicants elected invention I, drawn to claims 1-10, and species of shown in Figure 1. The Amendment and Response to Office Action amends claims 1, 5-6, 10, wherein claim 1 and claim 5 includes a net shown in non-elected Figure 5. Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-10 now appear to be drawn to a non-elected species. Clarification as to which of the currently pending claims are included in the elected species is required."

In response to the above statement, the following is noted. Fig. 1 is directed to the invention that is covered by the elected method claims. Fig. 3 is directed to an alternative embodiment of the non-woven fabric manufacturing apparatus. Figs. 4 and 5 are illustrations showing third and fourth embodiments of the invention.

In Fig. 1, the pattern drum 7 is shown. Fig. 6 is an enlarged illustration of this pattern drum 7 with a net 33 shown thereon. According to the Notice, it is a net that is shown in Fig. 5.

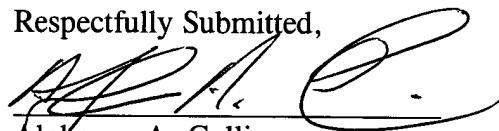
In the embodiment shown in Fig. 5, the patterning wire 20 is the net having the same pattern as that of the net 33 illustrated in Fig. 6, and is wrapped over four rolls 21a, 21b, 21c, and 21d in opposition to the outer peripheral surface of the wire net transporting belt 2. In addition, the water jet nozzles 5 and the suction box 6 in the non-woven fabric forming portion 1 shown in Figs. 1 and 2 are eliminated. As a result, the portion where the pattern drum 7 or the patterning wire 20 is opposed to the water jet nozzles 8 or 22 serves as both the non-woven fabric forming portion and the pattern forming portion.

Simply put, there is a net in all embodiments of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the amendment of claim 1 to include the net was proper since this was clearly

included in Fig. 1 as filed. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn.

If there are any questions regarding this Response or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this would expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Respectfully Submitted,



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